Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session  

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1280  

Introduced by MAGSASAKA Party-list Representative  
ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

A RESOLUTION  
URGING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM TO CONDUCT A REVIEW, IN AID OF  
LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS, ORDERS, AND OTHER ISSUANCES  
GOVERNING AGRICULTURAL LEASEHOLD DISPUTES

1 WHEREAS, Section 4, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the  
State shall, by law, undertake an agrarian reform program founded on the right of farmers and  
regular farmworkers who are landless, to own directly or collectively the lands they till or, in the  
case of other farmworkers, to receive a just share of the fruits thereof;

5 WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended by Republic Act No. 9700,  
provides that the State shall apply the principles of agrarian reform, or stewardship, whenever  
applicable, in accordance with law, in the disposition or utilization of other natural resources,  
including lands of the public domain, under lease or concession, suitable to agriculture, subject to  
prior rights, homestead rights of small settlers and the rights of indigenous communities to their  
ancestral lands;

11 WHEREAS, the agrarian reform program of the State includes an agricultural leasehold  
system that replaced all existing share tenancy systems in agriculture throughout the country;

13 WHEREAS, the agricultural leasehold system is governed by Republic Act No. 3844, as  
amended by Republic Act No. 6389, otherwise known as the "Agricultural Land Reform Code",  
Republic Act No. 6657, as amended by Republic Act No. 9700, otherwise known as the  
"Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program", and other related orders and issuances of the  
Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
WHEREAS, these laws, orders, and issuances have provided rights and obligations to lessees and lessors and mechanisms to resolve disputes arising from the leasehold system;

WHEREAS, DAR has reported a 79.3% accomplishment rate in the first semester of 2020, resolving 14,372 cases out of the 18,124 agrarian law implementation cases;

WHEREAS, this accomplishment includes the administrative resolution of all agrarian-related disputes through the lawyers and legal officers of DAR, formulation of guidelines, plans, and programs for the effective delivery of free legal assistance and counseling for the clientele; investigation of cases; review of recommendations; and preparation of orders, decisions, and resolutions on matters involving agrarian disputes including those related in agricultural leasehold system;

WHEREAS, despite this rate of success claim, a significant number of ARBs, cooperatives, and agrarian reform communities (ARCs) have expressed their security concerns even before and while undergoing litigation in the appropriate offices of DAR;

WHEREAS, our constituents in the municipality of Dumao, Capiz alone have reported cases of ejectment and dispossession of lands without due process and experienced intimidation and serious threats from their lessor;

WHEREAS, aside from the issue of land tenure security, it is clear that our farmers and Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) continue to face additional burden to protect their families and communities from life-threatening consequences of the mere exercise of their rights in accordance to our agrarian reform policies;

WHEREAS, there is a necessity to review existing regulations on agricultural leasehold dispute to look at possible policy adjustments for the protection of farmers and the speedy disposition of their cases to prevent further harm and injustice, among others;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Agrarian Reform is urged to conduct a review, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of laws, orders, and other issuances governing agricultural leasehold disputes.

Adopted,

REP. ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT